

December 17, 2015

The Honorable Dr. Kathryn Sullivan  
Administrator  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811  
14<sup>th</sup> Street & Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit to you the recommendations report, "Comments and recommendations on the NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program's Performance Metrics Plan and Coordination Plan". The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science Program Advisory Working Group (RSPAWG) prepared this report and the SAB approved it at its October 2015 meeting.

The charge to the RSPAWG was to review the draft NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program's Performance Metrics Plan and Coordination Plan and to submit initial review comments and recommendations.

In this report in four overarching comments the SAB states:

- It is critical to define how NOAA is to measure the performance of RESTORE Act activities as a precursor to planning coordination and collaboration within NOAA and with NOAA's external RESTORE Act partners.
- The Performance Metrics Plan must be revised to include both quantitative and qualitative metrics assessing the magnitude, quality and impact of long-term outcomes of the Program.
- The Coordination Plan must address coordination and integration efforts both within NOAA and among NOAA's external RESTORE Act partners.
- The two plans must be strongly and clearly integrated to ensure that performance assessment and coordination promote the best available science and development of decision-support tools for a broad range of end users to support both the RESTORE Act's vision and its mission.

The SAB encourages NOAA to consider incorporating these recommendations into its plans for the RESTORE Act Science Program's Performance Metrics Plan and Coordination Plan. The SAB respectfully requests a response from NOAA to these recommendations by the November 2016 SAB meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,



Lynn Scarlett  
Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board  
Managing Director for Public Policy, The Nature Conservancy

Attachment

cc: Jean May-Brett  
Michael J. Donahue  
Dwayne E. Porter  
Robert Dickey  
Richard Spinrad  
Mary Erickson  
Julien Lartigue  
Elizabeth Turner  
Mary Anne Whitcomb  
Bridget Seegers